

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on
Tuesday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm.**

25/26.121 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH) and Guy Rafferty (GR).

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor and Suzie McNulty, Hale and Woodgreen First Responders.

Apologies for Absence: Pete Skinner

25/26.122 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.123 Minutes of previous meeting held on 16/12/2025.

25/26.123.1 Following a review of the minutes, it was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

25/26.123.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Steels Drove - AJ will talk to residents regarding the security of the gate.

25/26.124 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

25/26.125 First Responders: Suzie McNulty reported on the new First Responders group. A Community First Responders group was previously active in Woodgreen and Hale but has not been in operation for about 10 years. The Hale and Woodgreen Group has been restarted and there are currently five volunteers who each commit 20 hours a month. First responders are dispatched following a 999 call and are often the first on the scene. Currently cover is not 24/7 but cover will increase if further volunteers join the scheme. The First Responders scheme is national and is funded by charity, in this area the South Central Ambulance Charity. They supply all the uniforms, kit bags (which include defibrillators) and consumables. They also provide training to an initial Level 3 and further ongoing training, for example the group is currently undergoing a lifting module. Currently the group are fundraising for the SCAS charity; any money raised cannot be ringfenced for this particular group but is used to start other groups and supply the consumables and ongoing training to Hale and Woodgreen. Suzie was asked if she would be willing provide an overview and update on First Responders at the Annual Parish Assembly- which she readily accepted. Woodgreen Defib- The defib located at the village shop is currently in operation but will need to be replaced in 12- 18 months. Woodgreen PC currently fund the batteries and pads if they cannot be sourced from the ambulance service. WPC will begin to investigate possible replacements.

25/26.126 Report by New Forest District Councillor: Nothing to report at present.

25/26.127 Planning: The following applications were discussed:

Case Number	25/01402FULL
Proposal	Replacement garden store; outbuilding; greenhouse
Site	Coombe Cottage, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen,, SP6 2BD

Cllrs discussed the application and agreed there were no issues with the application and there have been no comments from neighbours. Cllrs unanimously agreed to recommend Option 1 - We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Case Number	25/01463CONS
Proposal	Prune 1 x Weeping Willow
Site	Romilly, High Street, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, SP6 2AU

Case Number	25/01491CONS
Proposal	Prune 1 Yew tree, Prune 2 x Leylandii trees, Prune 5 x Hazel trees.
Site	Cob Cottage, Merrie Gardens, Woodgreen, SP6 2AT

Case Number 26/00019CONS
 Proposal Fell 1 x Eucalyptus tree
 Site Castle Dene, High Street, Woodgreen, SP6 2AY

SH and HD visited all the sites and had no issues with the proposed works and therefore recommended to accept the decision of the National Park Authority Tree Officer. This was unanimously agreed.

25/26.128 Meetings Attended:

Forestry England - JC and GR met with a representative from FE in autumn 2025 to discuss managing some of the trees to sustain the view at Castle Hill, no decision was given at the time. FE also stated that they would replace the wooden barriers at this location. AJ will contact FE for follow up information.

Police - MF has regular updates with PCSO Steve May - no issues at present.

25/26.129 Speed Indicator Devices: Two SIDs and associated equipment have been ordered. AJ will continue to liaise with highways regarding the installation of the posts.

25/26.130 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :

Broken gate at the top of Steels Drove - This has been reported to HCC as it is a Public Right of Way.

Grit Bin (Castle Hill)- This was very badly damaged by a vehicle and has been reported.

Lengthsman - The next Lengthsman visit will be 16th Feb, jobs will include replacing dragons teeth and emptying the green bin at the cemetery.

25/26.131 Review of cemetery rules/fees: The cemetery rules require no fundamental changes however the fees have not increased since 2021; SH proposed the following increases to the cemetery fees -

Fees for purchase of exclusive right of burial (75 years)

Single or double Grave Depth £380

Cremation space £190

Reservation of an additional space where available on the first death £25

Interment Fee - Burial or cremation £250.

Memorials Fees -

Headstone for grave £180.

Plaque for cremation area or existing grave (45cms X 30cms max) £110

Additional Inscription to an existing memorial £65

This was approved and unanimously agreed by all councillors.

25/26.132 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £15,542.91 as at 08.01.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,388.23 as at 08.01.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure and current balances were noted and approved.

b. **Expenditure:** The following payments were approved.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - December	444.90		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - December	180.00		Bank Transfer

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		
TP Jones	Payroll (October to December)	59.40	9.90	BACS
Hosting	Domain renewal	318.00	53.00	BACS
British Gas	Reading Room supply	13.32		Direct Debit

25/26.133 The following correspondence was noted.

23/12/25 NPA - Seasons Greetings from the National Park Authority

06/01/25 NALC - Open letter from new Chair.

Parishioner email -

29/12/25 Letter about the gate at Steels Drove. *The gate has been reported.*

29/12/25 Email regarding activity at Keepers Cottage. *Police visited; AJ to contact FE.*

29/12/25 Email regarding state of road from Densome Corner to the Common. *To be reported.*

25/26.134 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

SH suggested that Woodgreen PC look into the possibility of creating a footpath/possibly cycleway along the verge of Breamore Lane to the Iron Bridge over the Avon and possibly further into Breamore Parish to link with the Breamore pathway (old railway line) currently being upgraded. Cllr Janet Richards promised to provide further input as Sandleheath parish are improving footways to Fordingbridge at the moment and should have contact details for us. Investigations into how to begin this process will be made and SH will report back at the next meeting.

Next meeting -To discuss any S137 applications (grant applications from local groups).

Next meeting Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 22.50

Signed by the Chair

Date

